THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Item-wise export and import figures for all the countries are given in the monthly publication, Foreign Trade Statistics of India, brought out by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Government is committed to promote trade with all countries, including the neighbouring countries.

Sending a team to other countries to boost export of Tobacco

1059. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Board has proposed to send a team to several countries like Egypt, China and Russia to boost export of tobacco;

(b) if so, the steps taken to accede to their request to assess demand and help farmers and traders in tobacco industry?

*THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) A delegation of 6 Members recently visited Libya, Jordan, Egypt and Algeria in February, 2000 to promote Indian exports of tobacco in these countries. Another delegation of tobacco exporters is to visit Russia shortly. The Tobacco Board has made a proposal to examine the prospect of exporting tobacco to countries in East Asia including China.

Export of items manufactured by SSI

†1060. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced any facilities or incentives to promote the export of items manufactured by Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any increase in export during the current year against last year from this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. For the purpose of recognition as Export

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

House/Trading House/Star Trading House/ Super Star Trading House, triple weightage is given on FOB or net foreign exchange on the export of product manufactured and exported by units in the Small Scale Industries (SSI)/Tiny Sector/ Cottage Sector and double weightage on FOB or net foreign exchange to merchant exporter exporting products reserved for SSI units and manufactured by units in the Small Scale Industry (SSI)/ Tiny Sector/Cottage Sector. For promoting exports of SSI products, 2% additional Special Import License is also given to Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House and Super Star Trading House.

(c) and (d) As per information compiled by the Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards, export figures in respect of small scale sector for the year 1998-99 have been estimated at Rs. 48979.23 crores. Exports from small scale during the year 1997-98 were estimated at Rs. 44442.18 crores. Accordingly, exports during 1998-99 have shown an increase of 10.20% over the year 1997-98. The Figures for the year 1999-2000 are not available yet.

New Industrial Development Plan

1061. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any new plan for industrial development o f the country;

(b) if so, what are the basic features of such plan;

(c) whether Government propose to establish new Industries in comi.ng years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The industrial development of the country is governed by the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991. The major objective of the New Industrial Policy is to build on the gains already made, maintain a sustained growth in productivity and gainful employment and attain international competitiveness. In pursuit of these objectives, Government have taken a series of initiatives in respect of the policies relating to industrial licensing, foreign investment, foreign technology argreement, public sector policy etc.